

## Ezra Stiles Ely to Andrew Jackson, January 15, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### REV. EZRA STILES ELY TO JACKSON.

Philadelphia, January 15, 1830.

*Dear and Honoured Sir,* Your favour of the 12th instant, has just arrived. It would have given me pleasure with it to have received your son also: and I have only to regret that you were under the necessity of writing on a painful subject.

My letters to yourself I considered so entirely confidential that I did not take a copy of them; and therefore cannot recollect what were the words I used concerning Mr. John E. Hyde, merchant of New York. I think you will find, dear Sir, by a reference to my letters that I have given him as the person who told me that some man at Gadsby's public table on the morning after Mr. Vaughn's last public entertainment which preceded your inauguration, had said, as was reported, "that Mrs. E. brushed by him last night and pretended not to know him: that she had forgotten the time when he had slept with her." He did tell me that someone had thus spoken, in Gadsby's public eating room. He did not assert any thing more than this: and appeared to regret that such disgraceful things should be thus publicly spoken against the wife of one who was expected to be a member of the cabinet.

The Mr. Hyde to whom your last letter refers I should presume must be some other man, than the one of whom I wrote. It is true that Mr. John E. Hyde brought no charge of any kind against Maj. Eaton or his lady. A third person was present when Mr. John E. Hyde told me of this shameful speech of some fellow; and if he has not gone to France I shall

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endeavour [to] get his statement. If Mr. Hyde is in N. York, I shall expect he will do me the justice to tell the truth. I shall write him.

With the Rev. J. N. Campbell I have not had the least intercourse or communication since I left your truly republican palace. I have designed not to meddle with the character and conduct of Mrs. Eaton unless I should be compelled in my own defense. Every thing which I have done in relation to her, or said, will have my leave to be forgotten as soon as possible. I know nothing of Mr. Campbell's designs at present. Of her I should be glad to hear that she makes Major Eaton a good wife, and gives you no trouble. Since my letters may be important to refresh my own memory, I should be glad to copy them, or to obtain a copy were it not too great a tax upon your private Secretary. . . .